

# Summer 2023 Reading Assignment for Middle School

(Rising 6th, 7th, & 8th)

**Step 1:** Read ANY TWO BOOKS, one of which is from the CCS Middle School Reading List  
The books you select must be ones you have not previously read.

**Step 2:** For ONE of the books you read, complete this writing assignment:

1. (Fiction): Read the story with special attention paid to the main character. How does this character change during the story? What events or characters cause this change? What lessons does the character learn during the book? Write a 2-page report in which you address these topics. Type or carefully hand-write your report.
2. (Nonfiction): Consider the topic being addressed in the book. Answer these questions:
  - a. Who or what is this book about?
  - b. What happened?
  - c. Where do the events in the book take place?
  - d. When did these events take place?
  - e. Why are the events/people described in this book important? What did they accomplish that is noteworthy?

**Step 3:** Please take care to write/type neatly and edit before you consider your report to be finished.

**Step 4:** Your completed report is due THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL. You will receive a grade based on the following:

1. Neat/edited handwriting, typed copy
2. Covers all areas listed above for the genre.
3. Submitted during the first week of school
4. All directions followed

**Step 5:** Read your SECOND book *carefully*. You will be asked to complete a writing activity on your second book when we begin the school year.

## CCS Middle School Summer Reading List

<b><i>Freak the Mighty</i></b> by Rodman Philbrick	Realistic/Classic
<b><i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i></b> by Scott O'dell	Realistic/Classic
<b><i>Gentle Ben</i></b> by Walt Morey	Realistic/Classic
<b><i>Black Beauty</i></b> by Anna Sewell	Realistic/Classic
<b><i>The Swiss Family Robinson</i></b> by Johann Wyss	Realistic/Classic
<b><i>The Secret Garden</i></b> Frances Hodgson Burnett	Realistic/Classic
<b><i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i></b> by Jules Verne	Realistic/Classic
<b><i>Hoot</i></b> by Carl Hiaasen	Realistic
<b><i>The False Prince</i></b> by Jennifer Nielsen	Realistic
<b><i>Mockingbird</i></b> by Kathryn Erskine	Realistic
<b><i>Leap of Faith</i></b> by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	Realistic
<b><i>Ordinary Miracles</i></b> by Stephanie Tolan	Realistic
<b><i>Under the Egg</i></b> by Laura Marx Fitzgerald	Realistic
<b><i>Shadow</i></b> by Michael Morpurgo	Realistic
<b><i>Counting by 7s</i></b> by Holly Sloan	Realistic
<b><i>Half a Chance</i></b> by Cynthia Lord	Realistic
<b><i>A.K.A. Genius</i></b> by Marilee Haynes	Realistic

<b><i>The Not-So-Star-Spangled Life of Sunita Sen</i></b> by Mitali Perkins	Realistic
<b><i>House Arrest</i></b> by K.A. Holt	Realistic
<b><i>Golden Boy</i></b> by Tara Sullivan	Realistic
<b><i>Fish in a Tree</i></b> by Lynda Mullaly Hunt	Realistic
<b><i>Booked</i></b> by Kwame Alexander	Realistic
<b><i>Interrupted</i></b> by Rachel Coker	Realistic
<b><i>Stargirl</i></b> by Jerry Spinelli	Realistic
<b><i>Zero Tolerance</i></b> by Claudia Mills	Realistic
<b><i>Long Walk to Water</i></b> by Linda Sue Park	Realistic
<b><i>Railway Children</i></b> by E. Nesbit	Historical/Classic
<b><i>Old Yeller</i></b> by Fred Gipson	Historical/Classic
<b><i>Across Five Aprils</i></b> by Irene Hunt	Historical/Classic
<b><i>Johnny Tremain</i></b> by Esther Forbes	Historical/Classic
<b><i>The War That Saved My Life</i></b> by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	Historical
<b><i>Dead End in Norvelt</i></b> by Jack Gantos	Historical
<b><i>Twerp</i></b> by Mark Goldblatt	Historical
<b><i>Prisoner B-3087</i></b> by Alan Gratz	Historical
<b><i>The Seventh Most Important Thing</i></b> by Shelley Pearsall	Historical

<b><i>Light in the Forest</i></b> by Conrad Richter	Historical
<b><i>Seeing Red</i></b> by Kathryn Erskine	Historical
<b><i>Milkweed</i></b> by Jerry Spinelli	Historical
<b><i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963</i></b> by Christopher Paul Curtis	Historical
<b><i>Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two</i></b> by Joseph Bruchac	Historical
<b><i>Fuzzy Mud</i></b> by Louis Sachar	Mystery
<b><i>A School for Unusual Girls</i></b> by Kathleen Baldwin	Mystery
<b><i>Eragon</i></b> by Christopher Paolini	Fantasy
<b><i>Journey to the Center of the Earth</i></b> by Jules Verne	Sci-Fi/Classic
<b><i>The Boy on the Wooden Box</i></b> by Leon Leyson	Non Fiction/Historical
<b><i>The Boys Who Challenged Hitler</i></b> by Phillip Hoose	Non Fiction/Historical
<b><i>12 Years a Slave</i></b> by Solomon Northup	Non Fiction/Historical
<b><i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i></b> by James L. Swanson	Non Fiction/Historical

<b><i>Bomb: The Race to Build--and Steal-- the World's Most Dangerous Weapon</i></b> by Steve Sheinkin	Non Fiction/Historical
<b><i>The President has been Shot!: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy</i></b> by James L. Swanson	Non Fiction/Historical
<b><i>Refugee</i></b> by Alan Gratz	Historical
<b><i>The Girl Who Drank the Moon</i></b> by Kelly Barnhill	Fantasy
<b><i>Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus</i></b> by Dusti Bowling	Realistic

**Books in a SERIES- any book in the series may be read**

<b><i>The Hobbit or Lord of the Rings Trilogy</i></b> Series by Tolkien	Classic/ Fantasy
<b><i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i></b> by C.S.Lewis	Classic/ Fantasy
<b><i>Immortal Nicholas Flamel Series</i></b> by Michael Scott	Fantasy
<b><i>Wormling Series</i></b> by Jerry Jenkins	Fantasy
<b><i>The Mysterious Benedict Society Series</i></b> by Trenton Lee Stewart	Suspense
<b><i>Crispin Series</i></b> by Avi	Historical
<b><i>The Penderwicks Series</i></b> by Jeanne Birdsall	Realistic
<b><i>Anne of Green Gables</i></b> by L.M. Montgomery	Classic/ Realistic

## Recommended Reading from esteemed middle school student at CCS:

1. Anything from Jane Austen or Charlotte Bronte (*Pride & Prejudice*, *Jane Eyre*, *Emma*, etc)
2. *Halflings* series by Heather Burch
3. *Divergent* series by Veronica Roth
4. *Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins
5. *The School for Unusual Girls* (Stranje House series) by Kathleen Baldwin
6. *Susanna's Midnight Ride* by Libby Carty McNamee
7. *Swipe* series by Evan Angler
8. *The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancy
9. *Unwind series* by Neil Shusterman
10. *Game Changer* by Neil Shusterman
11. *Unbroken* by Lauren Hillenbrand
12. *Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson
13. *Magic for Marigold* by L.M. Montgomery
14. *Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
15. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
16. *That Was Then, This is Now* by S.E.Hinton
17. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
18. *A School for Good and Evil* by Soman Chainani
19. *My Diary from the Edge of the World* by Jodi Lynn Anderson
20. *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly

## NEW ADDITIONS TO THE READING LIST!

### ***All Summer Long***

by Hope Larson  
Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2018,  
ISBN: 9780374304850  
Bina's expectations for summer  
are upended, leading to new  
experiences and self-discovery.

### ***Amal Unbound***

by Aisha Saeed  
Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018,  
ISBN: 9780399544682  
A powerful story about a  
young Pakistani girl forced into  
indentured servitude.

### ***Ashes to Asheville***

by Sarah Dooley  
Putnam, 2017, ISBN:  
9780399165047  
Fella and her sister, Zany, take  
their deceased mother's ashes  
and run away to Asheville—the  
last place they were happy as  
a family—where they hope to  
scatter them as per her wishes.

### ***Charlie Hernández and the League of Shadows***

by Ryan Calejo  
Aladdin, 2018, ISBN:  
9781534426580  
Charlie is drawn into an ancient  
battle between good and evil  
when figures from the Latino  
myths his abuela told him  
suddenly appear in the real  
world—and his body begins to  
grow horns and feathers!

### ***Countdown: 2979 Days to the Moon***

by Suzanne Slade, illustrated  
by Thomas Gonzalez  
Peachtree, 2018, ISBN:  
9781682630136  
Follow the U.S. space program's  
triumphs and setbacks, from  
President Kennedy's challenge to  
the nation in 1963 to its fulfillment  
with the first man on the moon.

### ***Dove Arising***

by Karen Bao  
Viking, 2015, ISBN:  
9780451469014  
Quiet, introverted Phaet Theta  
keeps to herself, but when her  
mother is arrested, she must  
find her courage and enlist in the  
Moon's militia to free her mom  
and save her siblings. First in a  
Series.

### ***Ghost***

by Jason Reynolds  
Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books,  
2016, ISBN: 9781481450157  
Ghost is trying to outrun his  
tumultuous past while winning  
races on his new track team; will  
he learn what it takes to succeed  
and overcome his troubles? First  
in a series.

***Harbor Me***

by Jacqueline Woodson  
Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018,  
ISBN: 9780399252525  
A group of middle-school  
students come together under  
the direction of an inspiring  
teacher to share stories and  
appreciate their differences.

***It All Comes Down to This***

by Karen English  
Clarion, 2017, ISBN:  
9780544839571  
In Los Angeles during the summer  
of 1965, Sophie, an upper middle-  
class African American  
girl, learns some hard truths about  
her family, about friendship, and  
about racism.

***Love, Ish***

by Karen Rivers  
Algonquin Young Readers, 2017,  
ISBN: 9781616205706  
Mischa “Ish” Love’s dreams of  
escaping life in her small town  
and living on Mars one day are  
threatened by a sudden illness.

***Marcus Vega Doesn’t  
Speak Spanish***

by Pablo Cartaya  
Viking, 2018, ISBN:  
9781101997260  
Marcus just wants to help his  
single mom get by and protect  
his brother from bullies, but he  
creates more problems than he  
solves. His mother decides a trip  
to visit family in Puerto Rico is just  
the thing they need.

***Merci Suárez Changes  
Gears***

by Meg Medina  
Candlewick Press, 2018, ISBN:  
9780763690496  
Sixth-grader Merci faces  
challenges as a scholarship  
student at her fancy private  
school, while at home, her  
beloved grandfather has begun to  
act strangely. Can Merci navigate  
all these changes?

***The Night Diary***

by Veera Hiranandani  
Kokila, 2018, ISBN:  
9780735228511  
A gripping story of one family’s  
flight from Pakistan during the  
partition of India in 1947, as told  
by twelve-year-old Nisha to her  
Diary.

***Peasprout Chen, Future  
Legend of Skate and  
Sword***

by Henry Lien  
Henry Holt, 2018, ISBN:  
9781250165695  
Peasprout and her brother,  
Cricket, are accepted into Pearl  
Famous Academy of Skate and  
Sword to study Wu Liu, martial  
arts figure skating. High-stakes  
competition, political intrigue, and  
more await them.

***Piecing Me Together***

by Renée Watson  
Bloomsbury, 2017, ISBN:  
9781681191058  
Jade is an “at-risk” student from  
a poor neighborhood in Portland,



Oregon, who struggles to find her voice amid conflicting pressures. Allusions to collage art and the themes of making yourself out of the pieces of your life elevate this coming-of-age story.

***The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life***

by Kwame Alexander,  
photographs by Thai Neave  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017,  
ISBN: 9780544570979

Mixing poetry, photography, and inspiring stories from athletes and other role models, this book shares life lessons and advice for overcoming obstacles.

***Putting Peace First: 7 Commitments to Change the World***

by Eric Dawson  
Viking, 2018, ISBN:  
9781101997338

Learn how to make a difference in the world NOW with this step-by-step guide to putting your visions into practice.

***Sci-Fu***

by Yehudi Mercado  
Oni Press, 2018, ISBN:  
9781620104729

It's 1980s Brooklyn, and Wax just scratched the perfect beat, attracting the attention of an evil alien robot who transports his family, best friend, and crush to the planet Discopia, where Wax must master the art of Sci-Fu if he wants to fight the bad guys,

save the universe, and get back to Earth.

***See You in the Cosmos***

by Jack Cheng  
Dial Books, 2017, ISBN:  
9780399186370

Alex Petroski is on a mission to send a rocket into space with a recording on his iPod of what it's like to be human, just like his hero Carl Sagan. His journey takes him farther than he ever could have Imagined.

***Space Battle Lunchtime, Vol. 1: Lights, Camera, Snacktion***

by Natalie Riess  
Oni Press, 2016, ISBN:  
9781620103135

The competition is fierce on the universe's most popular reality TV cooking show, Space Battle Lunchtime! Does Earth baker Peony have what it takes to win? The Stars Beneath Our Feet

by David Barclay Moore  
Knopf Books, 2017, ISBN:  
9781524701246

A boy tries to find himself and a community in his Harlem neighborhood in the wake of his brother's death.

***Us, in Progress: Short Stories about Young Latinos***

by Lulu Delacre  
HarperCollins, 2017, ISBN:  
9780062392145

A collection of short stories

growing up in the United States.

***The Witch Boy***

by Molly Knox Ostertag

Graphix, 2017, ISBN:

9781338089523

In Aster's family, boys are shapeshifters and girls are witches—but Aster has always been more interested in witchcraft than shapeshifting. As Aster tries to remain true to himself, secrets about his family's past are unearthed. First in a series.

The Elephant's Girl by Celesta Rimington

An elephant never forgets, but Lexington Willow can't remember what happened before a tornado swept her away when she was a toddler. All she knows is that it landed her near an enclosure in a Nebraska zoo; and there an elephant named Nyah protected her from the storm. With no trace of her birth family, Lex grew up at the zoo with Nyah and her elephant family; her foster father, Roger; her best friend, Fisher; and the wind whispering in her ear.

Now that she's twelve, Lex is finally old enough to help with the elephants. But during their first training session, Nyah sends her a telepathic image of the woods outside the zoo. Despite the wind's protests, Lex decides to investigate Nyah's message and gets wrapped up in an adventure involving ghosts, lost treasure, and a puzzle that might be the key to finding her family.

Ruby in the Sky by Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo

Twelve-year-old Ruby Moon Hayes does not want her new classmates to ask about her father. She does not want them to know her mother has been arrested. And she definitely does not want to make any friends. Ruby just wants to stay as silent and invisible as a new moon in the frozen sky. She and her mother won't be staying long in Vermont anyway, and then things can go back to the way they were before everything went wrong.

But keeping to herself isn't easy when Ahmad Saleem, a Syrian refugee, decides he's her new best friend. Or when she meets "the Bird Lady," a recluse named Abigail who lives in a ramshackle shed near Ruby's house. Before long Ahmad and Abigail have become Ruby's friends—and she realizes there is more to their stories than everyone knows.

Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson

For as long as ZJ can remember, his dad has been everyone's hero. As a charming, talented pro football star, he's as beloved to the neighborhood kids he plays with as he is to his millions of adoring sports fans. But lately life at ZJ's house is anything but charming. His dad is having trouble remembering things and seems to be angry all the time. ZJ's mom explains it's because of all the head injuries his dad sustained during his career. ZJ can understand that—but it doesn't make the sting any less real when his own father forgets his name. As ZJ contemplates his new reality, he has to figure out how to hold on tight to family traditions and recollections of the glory days, all the while wondering what their past amounts to if his father can't remember it.

The Million Dollar Race by Matthew Ross  
Smith

Grant Falloon isn't just good at track; he's close to breaking the world record 100-meter time for his age group. So when the mega-rich Babblemoney sneaker company announces an international competition to find the fastest kid in the world, he's desperate to sign up.

But not so fast. Nothing's ever that easy with the eccentric Falloon family. Turns out, his non-conformist parents never got him a legal birth certificate. He can't race for the United States, so now if he wants to compete, he may just have to invent his own country.

And even if that plan works, winning gold will mean knocking his best friend—and biggest competitor—Jay, out of the competition.

Framed by James Ponti

So you're only halfway through your homework and the Director of the FBI keeps texting you for help...What do you do? Save your grade? Or save the country? If you're Florian Bates, you figure out a way to do both.

Florian is twelve years old and has just moved to Washington. He's learning his way around using TOAST, which stands for the Theory of All Small Things. It's a technique he invented to solve life's little mysteries such as: where to sit on the first day of school, or which Chinese restaurant has the best egg rolls. But when he teaches it to his new friend Margaret, they uncover a

mystery that isn't little. In fact, it's HUGE, and it involves the National Gallery, the FBI, and a notorious crime syndicate known as EEL.

Can Florian decipher the clues and finish his homework in time to help the FBI solve the case?

One Kid's Trash by Jamie Sumner

Hugo is not happy about being dragged halfway across the state of Colorado just because his dad had a midlife crisis and decided to become a ski instructor. It'd be different if Hugo weren't so tiny, if girls didn't think he was adorable like a puppy in a purse and guys didn't call him "leprechaun" and rub his head for luck. But here he is, the tiny new kid on his first day of middle school.

When his fellow students discover his remarkable talent for garbology, the science of studying trash to tell you anything you could ever want to know about a person, Hugo becomes the cool kid for the first time in his life. But what happens when it all goes to his head?

The Reckless Club by Beth Vrabel

On the last day of middle school, five kids who couldn't be more different commit separate pranks, each sure they won't be caught and they can't get in trouble. They're wrong. As punishment, they each have to volunteer one beautiful summer day—the last one before school—at Northbrook Retirement and Assisted Living Home, where they'll push creamed carrots into toothless mouths, perform the world's most pathetic skit in front of residents who won't

remember it anyway, hold gnarled hands of peach fuzzed old ladies who relentlessly push hard candies, and somehow forge a bond with each other that has nothing to do with what they've done and everything to do with who they're becoming. All the action takes place in the course of this one day, with each chapter one hour of that day, as the five kids reveal what they've done, why they did it, and what they're going to do now.

### As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds

Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! The second surprise comes when Genie figures out that their grandfather is blind. Thunderstruck, Genie peppers Grandpop with questions about how he hides it so well (besides wearing way cool Ray-Bans).

How does he match his clothes? Know where to walk? Cook with a gas stove? Pour a glass of sweet tea without spilling it? Genie thinks Grandpop must be the bravest guy he's ever known, but he starts to notice that his grandfather never leaves the house—as in NEVER. And when he finds the secret room that Grandpop is always disappearing into—a room so full of songbirds and plants that it's almost as if it's been pulled inside-out—he begins to wonder if his grandfather is really so brave after all.

Then Ernie lets him down in the bravery department. It's his fourteenth birthday, and, Grandpop says to become a man, you have to learn how to shoot a gun. Genie thinks

that is AWESOME until he realizes Ernie has no interest in learning how to shoot. None. Nada. Dumbfounded by Ernie's reluctance, Genie is left to wonder—is bravery and becoming a man only about proving something, or is it just as important to own up to what you won't do?

### 96 Miles by J L Esplin

21 days without power. Two brothers on a desperate trek. 72 hours before time runs out...

The Lockwood brothers are supposed to be able to survive anything. Their dad, a hardcore believer in self-reliance, has stockpiled enough food and water at their isolated Nevada home to last for months. But when they are robbed of all their supplies during a massive blackout while their dad is out of town, John and Stew must walk 96 miles in the stark desert sun to get help. Along the way, they're forced to question their dad's insistence on self-reliance and ask just what it is that we owe to our neighbors, to our kin, and to ourselves.